Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

(i) one or more local anaesthetics in oil form in the final composition;

(ii) one or more surfactants, together present in an amount effective to produce a homogenous formulation; and

(iii) water up to 100 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

2. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more taste masking agents.

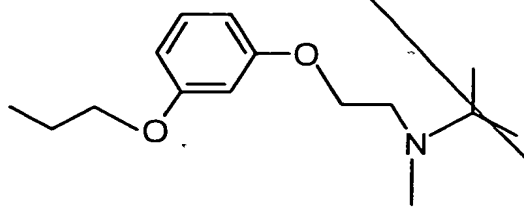
3. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the local anaesthetic or mixture of local anaesthetics is present in an amount of 0.5 - 20 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

4. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the amount of local anaesthetic or mixture of local anaesthetics being present in an amount of 2-7 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

5. A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims;~~ claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a eutectic mixture of local anaesthetics.

6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5, wherein the active ingredient is a eutectic mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine.

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is



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8. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of ~~the preceding~~ claims, comprising more than one surfactant of which at least one is a surfactant having thermoreversible gelling properties.

9. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of the preceding claims, the total amount of the surfactant(s) being present in an amount of up to 50 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

10. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of ~~the preceding~~ claims, wherein the surfactant is a non-ionic surfactant.

11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the surfactant is a poloxamer.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of ~~the preceding~~ claims, comprising the two surfactants ~~Lutrol F68®~~ and ~~Lutrol F127®~~.

13. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of the preceding claims for use in therapy.

14. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, for use as a local anaesthetic administered on the mucosa of the oral cavity.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, the therapeutic indication being pain relief during periodontal scaling.

16. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for pain relief during periodontal scaling.

17. A method for the treatment of pain associated with periodontal scaling, ~~whereby~~ comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 ~~is applied~~ to a patient in the need of pain relief during periodontal scaling.

18. A process for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, whereby

(i) the local anaesthetic(s) and the surfactant with the lowest molecular weight if more than one surfactant is used, are melted together;

(ii) a part of the water is slowly added to the melt (i) during homogenization, forming an emulsion concentrate;

(iii) if more than one surfactant is used, the surfactant with the higher molecular weight is dispersed in water;

(iv) the emulsion concentrate of step (ii) and part of the surfactant solution of step (iii) are thoroughly mixed;

(v) the pH-value is adjusted by the addition of a suitable acid or base;

(vi) the weight is adjusted with water to the final weight of the composition.

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